## RESOLUTION *re* THE VILLAGE PANCHAYAT REGULATION.

**MR. T. C. KESAVA PILLAI** (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*): Sir, I beg to move the following resolution:

"*This Council recommends to the Government that the Village Panchayat Regulation may be brought into operation as early as possible.*"

The Regulation passed in 1100 as Regulation VII of 1100 and the Rules made thereunder have been recently published for public criticism on the 13th July 1928. The Government may most probably have the idea of bringing the Regulation into effect as early as possible. Still, I selected this suject simply to place before the Government the urgency of the situation so far as the sanitation and other matters are concerned and which are referred to in Sections 16, 17, 22, 24 and 46. These are the important Sections in the Regulation which would be very useful for the rural reconstruction which has been clamoured for by the people of Travancore,—not only by the people of Travancore but also by the people of the whole of British India. In regard to rural reconstruction, there was originally proper construction but of late the whole thing has been a mess. In British India so far as Village *samudayams* are concerned even now there are *grama munsiffs* and other local bodies which are at least an apology for the ancient institutions which existed. But, so far as Travancore is concerned, the constitution before 904 M. E. was entirely different from what we have at present as seen from the Revenue Manual as well as from other Government publications and as known from our old and elderly people. There was a very good Travancore with small units having *karayogams* and *desams* and so on. But the whole aristocracy has been destroyed. Accordingly the so-called units as village organisations have been washed away. Now, there is practically nothing to consolidate a particular pakuthi or a village. In Travancore we never stick on to old *mamools*. Though we see them sometimes in British India, we never adopt the *mamools* which were prevalent in former days. That is all old story. I will not say anything about that. As regards rural construction, Village Panchayats should be immediately introduced. The Unemployment Committee also in their report in para 104 have beautifully and strongly placed before the Government their recommendations.

> ".....agricultural co-operation for purchase, production and sale, removal of rural indebtedness, improved methods of cultivation, rural clubs and libraries, elevation of the depressed classes, establishment of panchayats or (here) revival of karayogams, in fact every kind of welfare or development work in the rural areas comes under the scheme. It means a well-organised and well-co-ordinated campaign of all the forces available against poverty, dirt, disease and ignorance in rural areas."

These are the most important functions which I lay stress upon.

I am not going to say a word upon the Village Panchayat Regulation, but I shall bring to the notice of the Council Section 46, Clause (*d*) (i) and (ii). The Panchayats have power to levy license fees and so on. So, yesterday regarding cholera I brought to the notice of the Government the necessity for the construction of the fishermen's houses. If the Village Panchayat is introduced in the coast side, they could enforce

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

a license fee on each sea-going boat and accordingly raise money and sufficient capital could be raised for the construction of their houses on modern lines of sanitary principles.

**MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI** (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*) : Has the member read the draft Panchayat Rules published in the Gazette ?

**MR. T. C. KESAVA PILLAI** (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*) : Yes.

**MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI** (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*) : Does the member find the Rules satisfactory enough?

**MR. T. C. KESAVA PILALI** (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*) : I make this suggestion regarding Rule 46. So far as the administration of Municipalities is concerned, we have got bye-laws which are different in different Municipalities. If the choice is to be given to each Panchayat we may have the same result. So, I make the suggestion that the whole matter will have to be sent to the Registrar. But I would suggest that a model bye-law may be prepared and sent to each of the Village Panchayats if it is organised. As far as I am able to find out I make this suggestion. The Chief Secretary might have received ever so many criticisms from the whole of Travancore. But this is my suggestion. With these words.....

**MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI** (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*) ; On what basis will the member group the villages in Travancore for the purpose of a Village Panchayat ?

**MR. T. C. KESAVA PILLAI** (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*) : Each pakuthi may be considered as a Panchayat. As regards the license fees and so on.....

**MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI** (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*) : Has the member in view the revenue pakuthi ?

**MR. T. C. KESAVA PILLAI** (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*) : Yes. But the license fees and so on should not be introduced throughout the whole pakuthi, but only in places where there is not proper sanitation or where there is a thick crowd.

**MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI** (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*) : Will the revenue pakuthi be considered as equivalent to a village in British India for the purposes of Panchayat organisation ?

**MR. T. C. KESAVA PILLAI** (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*) : True, conditions are different. I brought to the notice of the Government the fact of sanitation being left with the Panchayat, as minor irrigation and other things are also being given under the Village Panchayat Rules. But as a unit of self-government the pakuthi may be taken though it is a big thing. After five or six years you may have the Taluk Board and the District Board. Even now there is a cry from North Travancore that money is spent more in South Travancore. If the allotted amount for the P. W. D. is divided into four or five parts, for each District Board, I think there would not be any such cry. I would only place this matter before the Council. It would

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

be of very great help for checking the spread of epidemics as well. As regards the detail, as it is not clearly defined in the Regulation, I leave the matter for the consideration of the House.

**MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI** (*Neyyattinkara*): I rise to a point of order. Is a discussion of the Rules of the Village Panchayat Regulation relevant for the purposes of this resolution?

**PRESIDENT**: I do not think that the member is so much discussing the Rules and Regulations as indicating that the introduction of the Regulation involves certain Rules in respect of which he makes a preliminary proposal for the adoption or modification of certain draft Rules bearing on the Regulation. To that extent it is relevant.

**MR. R. KESAVA PILLAI** (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): I beg to second the resolution brought forward by my friend. This Regulation was passed in 1100 and proposed to be put into force in Chingam 1101. It is now three years since this Regulation has been passed but it has not yet been brought into force. A similar Regulation was passed in Mysore as Regulation II of 1926 and it was brought into force in February 1927. In the Dewan's Address to the Mysore Representative Assembly, he said that within a period of six months.....

**PRESIDENT**: What happened in another country is entirely irrelevant to the present discussion.

**MR. R. KESAVA PILLAI** (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): I simply referred to it for the purpose of illustration. We all know that Travancore is a highly literate country, and, as such, if this Village Panchayat had been introduced in this country earlier, then people would have been well-trained in the art of self-government. We know that people outside as well as in this country are fighting for self-government and the introduction of Village Panchayat would have gone a great deal towards the realisation of the same. Yesterday we were talking very keenly on cholera and measures for preventing it. If Village Panchayat had been introduced in this country earlier, then there would have been no difficulty for preserving sanitation, for looking to the supply of pure water, for properly cleaning the streets and for the conservancy of grazing grounds etc. All this shows that the Government have been irresponsible to the people in not taking early measures for the bringing into force of this Regulation. This Regulation would have made the people share in the criminal administration of the country also. Owing to the failure of the Government, the people are undergoing great difficulties at the hands of the Police who extort money from the people in season and out of season and the Regulation would have also trained the people in other directions in the art of self-government and that would have enabled them to undertake greater responsibility in the administration of the country. With these words I second the motion.

**MR. P. S. MAHOMED** (*Nominated*): വില്ലേജ് പഞ്ചായത്തു് റഗുലേഷൻ എന്നതിനെപ്പറ്റി ഒരു കൌൺസിലിൽ ഒന്നും തന്നെ പറയേണ്ട



LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. P. S. Mahomed.]

ആവശ്യമുണ്ടെന്നു തോന്നുന്നില്ല. അതു് ആവശ്യമാണെന്നും അതിനെ നടപ്പിൽവരുത്തേണ്ടതാണെന്നും ഗവണ്മെൻറു ഉദ്ദേശിച്ചുകൊണ്ടു് തന്നെ യാണു ഒരംറ്റുലേഷൻ പാസ്സാക്കീട്ടുള്ളതു്. ആയതുകൊണ്ടു് അതിനെ നടപ്പിൽ വരുത്തേണ്ട ആവശ്യത്തെപ്പറ്റി പറഞ്ഞു് ഒരു കൌൺസി ലിൻെറ സമയം ചിലവഴിക്കണമെന്നു ഞാൻ വിചാരിക്കുന്നില്ല. ഒരു റ്റു ലേഷൻ പാസാക്കികഴിഞ്ഞാൽ അതു് കഴിയുന്നതും വേഗത്തിൽ നടപ്പി ൽ വരുത്തേണ്ടതു് അത്യാവശ്യമാണു്. അപ്രകാരം ചെയ്യുന്നതു് തന്നെ ഗവണ്മെൻറിൻെറ നിലയ്ക്കും അന്തസ്സിനും വളരെ യോജിച്ചതുമാണു്. അനേകകാലമായി നടപ്പിൽ വരുത്താതെ അവയെ ദീർഘിപ്പിക്കുന്നപക്ഷം വേണ്ടസംഗതികൾ ജാഗ്രതയായി നടത്തുന്നില്ല എന്നൊരു ന്യൂന ത വന്നുചേരുന്നതാണു. അതിനാൽ കഴിയുന്നതും വേഗത്തിൽ ഒരു റ്റു ലേഷൻ നടപ്പിൽ വരുത്തണമെന്നുള്ള അഭിപ്രായത്തോടുകൂടി ഇവിടെ അവതരിപ്പിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള പ്രമേയത്തെ ഞാൻ ബലമായി പിൻതാങ്ങുന്നു.

**MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI** (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Sir, I have very great pleasure to say that I accept the resolution.

---

**PRESIDENT**: The next resolution stands in the name of Mr. A. S. Damodaran Asan.

## RESOLUTION *RE* REGISTRY OF TANK-BEDS ETC.

**MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN** (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Sir, I beg to move the following resolution:

"*This Council recommends to the Government that the poramboke lands consisting of tanks and beds of rivers and canals and the lands adjoining them lying in paddy fields should not be registered or auctioned and that, where such registry or auction already effected is found to be detrimental to the public interests, they should be acquired by the Government under the Land Acquisition Regulation.*"

Sir, ever since the representative institutions have been granted to the people of this State, the representatives were hammering into the ears of the Government the necessity for increasing the irrigation facilities for the cultivators of paddy fields. Paddy is the chief food crop of Travancore and it is absolutely necessary that the Government should provide all facilities for the cultivators of paddy so that our position at least as regards our food crops might be self-sufficient. In spite of all that, I am extremely sorry to say that the Government have not taken proper steps in the matter. Two resolutions were passed in this Council more than five years ago requesting the Government at least to allot not less than six lakhs of rupees in one resolution and three lakhs of

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly